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Short, Quiet Week, But With Some Hopeful Hints For Housing and Rates

Between Monday's holiday market closure and the general absence of highly relevant economic reports, it was a fairly quiet week for interest rates and the housing market, but not without some potentially hopeful developments.

As evidence of just how quiet this week was for the bond market (which underlies mortgage rate movement), consider the extent to which US Treasuries took cues from European bonds (represented by Germany's 10yr yield in the following chart).



This isn't to say that there were no domestic motivations this week--only that they played out in very narrow ranges. The two most actively traded moments of the week followed Wednesday's 20yr bond auction and Thursday morning's S&P PMI data. Both resulted in very little market movement compared to hours with less actionable data in play.

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.22%	-0.08	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.85%	-0.06	0.00
30YR FHA	6.89%	-0.06	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.40%	-0.05	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.73%	+0.02	0.00
30YR VA	6.90%	-0.07	0.00

Rates as of: 11/4

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	100.17	-0.03
10 YR Treasury	4.8880	+0.0026
30 YR Treasury	5.2666	-0.0133

Pricing as of: 11/5 7:10AM EST

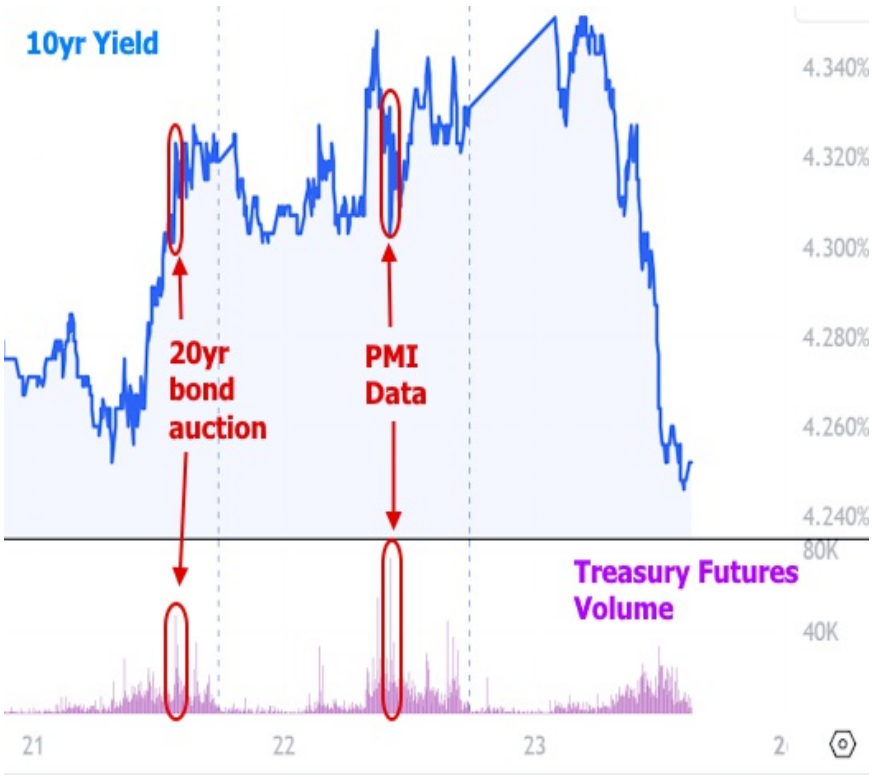
Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Oct 21	195	+3.39%
Building Permits	Sep	1.4M	+0.43%
Housing Starts	Sep	1.22M	-4.24%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Aug	71.2	0%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Oct	29	-9.38%

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In the bigger picture, this resulted in bond yields (which correlate with mortgage rates), just barely winning a battle to remain under the most frequently visited ceiling in recent weeks at 4.32%.

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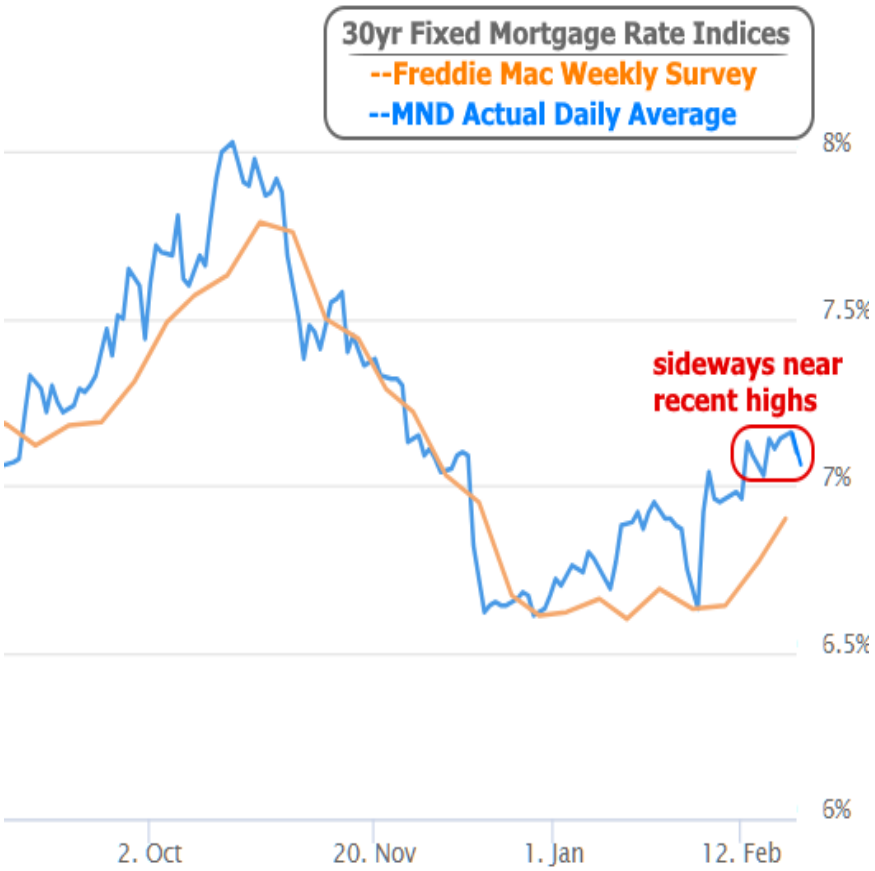


The attempt to hold ground in a narrow, sideways pattern near recent highs is the exact same thing that's playing out in mortgage rates--as long as you're following day to day movements as opposed to weekly indices that can have a substantial lag.

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All of the above can be considered in conjunction with the fact that we heard from multiple members of the Federal Reserve's rate-setting committee who said they were not reading too much into one month of hotter employment/inflation data (arguably "the thing" that did the most to accelerate 2024's upward rate momentum in February).

While this doesn't mean the Fed is suggesting data will turn around and help rates in early March, it does mean the market can afford to be receptive to the data if it paints a slightly more rate-friendly picture. Either way, early March is a HIGHLY consequential time for economic data as it brings all of the reports that have done the most to help and hurt interest rates over the past few years. Just as importantly, all of that data will be in before the next big Fed meeting/announcement on March 20th.

The spillover from rates to the housing market goes without saying, but we'll call some attention to it anyway. The average mortgage rate in January was the lowest in 7 months and existing home sales rose at their fastest pace in nearly a year according to data that came out this week. It also showed the annual pace of sales making back above 4 million after spending the last 3 months below.

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Next week brings additional housing data with January's new home sales numbers on Monday. The two major home price indices will be updated on Tuesday, but those run a month behind the majority of housing data and will thus only cover us through December. Thursday's Pending Home Sales data is the most timely. Even though it is also for January, it measures contract signings as opposed to closed sales and is thus more of an advance indicator of the next round of Existing Sales data.

Away from the housing market, there are a few other reports that can have an impact. The PCE inflation data is often referred to as the Fed's favorite inflation metric. That said, the market tends to react to the CPI data because it's available two weeks earlier. If PCE were to send a distinctly different message than CPI, the market would likely make an exception. Thankfully, though, because there was already a bad reaction to CPI for January, the only real surprise would be if PCE happened to show cooler inflation. If that were to happen, it could give rates a nudge toward lower levels, but again, the biggest nudges will be reserved for the next jobs report and CPI in early March.

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Recent Economic Data

Date	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Wednesday, Feb 21				
7:00AM	Feb/16 MBA Refi Index	427		489.6
7:00AM	Feb/16 MBA Purchase Index	133.6		149.6
2:00PM	FOMC Minutes			
Thursday, Feb 22				
8:30AM	Feb/17 Jobless Claims (k)	201K	218K	212K
9:45AM	Feb S&P Global Services PMI	51.3	52	52.5
10:00AM	Jan Existing home sales (ml)	4M	3.97M	3.78M
10:00AM	Jan Exist. home sales % chg (%)	3.1%		-1%

Event Importance:

No Stars = Insignificant
☆ Low
★ Moderate
★★ Important
★★ Very Important

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Date	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Monday, Feb 26				
10:00AM	Jan New Home Sales (ml)	0.661M	0.68M	0.664M
Tuesday, Feb 27				
8:30AM	Jan Durable goods (%)	-6.1%	-4.5%	0%
9:00AM	Dec FHFA Home Prices y/y (%)	6.6%		6.6%
9:00AM	Dec Case Shiller Home Prices-20 y/y (%)	6.1%	6%	5.4%
10:00AM	Feb CB Consumer Confidence (%)	106.7	115	114.8
Wednesday, Feb 28				
8:30AM	Q4 GDP (%)	3.2%	3.3%	4.9%
Thursday, Feb 29				
8:30AM	Jan Core PCE (m/m) (%)	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
8:30AM	Jan Core PCE Inflation (y/y) (%)	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%
8:30AM	Feb/24 Jobless Claims (k)	215K	210K	201K
9:45AM	Feb Chicago PMI	44	48	46
Friday, Mar 01				
10:00AM	Feb ISM Manufacturing PMI	47.8	49.5	49.1
10:00AM	Jan Construction spending (%)	-0.2%	0.2%	0.9%
10:00AM	Feb Consumer Sentiment (ip)	76.9	79.6	79
Wednesday, Apr 17				
1:00PM	20-Yr Bond Auction (bl)	13		

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About Me

I'm the Founder & CEO of World Home Loans, a mission-driven mortgage brokerage built with one purpose: to give consumers, especially Veterans, the respect, speed, and savings they deserve when financing a home.

Over the past 2 years, I've personally closed over 600 VA purchase loans and personally funded more than $375M in the past 12 months. Along the way, I learned that America's Veterans are too often underserved by big-box lenders—facing higher rates, slower closings, and a lack of genuine care. That's why I built World Home Loans.

Our Mission:
• To serve our Veterans by offering ultra-low mortgage rates and closing costs.
• To empower Veterans with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed home financing decisions.
• To stand against and eliminate the widespread overcharging of Veterans that has persisted in the mortgage industry for decades.

At World Home Loans, we back this mission with execution:
Faster closings (our average is 18 days)
Better pricing (consistently beating national averages)
White-glove experience that earns 5-star reviews at scale
A platform where top producers can 2–3X their volume through efficiency, brand power, and unmatched VA expertise.

With "Victory on the Home Front" as our rallying cry, World Home Loans is on course to become the dominant VA-focused lender in the country.

Alongside building WHL, I'm writing my book The Efficient Closer: Building a Mortgage Empire with Precision and Purpose—a playbook for originators who want to scale with speed, systems, and execution.

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